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Creative Project Rationale

For my creative project, I bought a blank mask and painted it. I painted the mask in varies different colors. While half of the mask has bright happier paint colors, the other half of the mask has dark moody colors. The brighter colored side has a red smile and the other dark half has a black frown. The reason why I painted a mask as my creative project was to symbolize the different masks people put on in their lives and in the novels. I believed that most people in general have on a happy smiley face when facing others and to be seen in public. The mask represents two sides of faces that people have in their lives. While one could be seen as happy and bright on the outside, no one can see the true sad and troubled feelings one has on the inside behind the mask. Many characters in the novels that we’ve read have masks on hiding their true character.

To start off, Lily Bart in *The House of Mirth* was definitely a character hiding behind a sophisticated mask. To find herself a suitable husband to take care of her lavish lifestyle, Lily Bart had a mask of elegancy on to make herself more attractable to men. Lily Bart does not show her true self, her attitudes and feelings, to the public. Lily Bart wears a mask of lies to hide her true self. Lily Bart has a more passionate inner true self that seeks freedom but due to society pressures, she was forced to wear a mask. This is also true for many people who have to put on a mask when dealing with people at work. The mask was stuck on Lily as she struggles to survive although Lily did attempt to take off her mask and show her true self to some friends and loved ones.

Another character who hid behind a mask was Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. Willy lived in a life escaped from his own reality. Willy had a mask on living in a life he thought he should be living in. Willy doesn’t realize he had a mask of lies on. Willy lived in his hallucinated world of lies where he doesn’t see anything bad or wrong. Willy had a mask on to help him escape the reality of the truths he that was happening in his life. A mask can help one escape the reality by helping on act and live like a different person. Willy couldn’t accept the harsh reality he was living in and had a mask on to help him encounter the problems in his life. Many people in modern society also have a similar mask on to escape their harsh reality and live in a fake happier life.

Two characters that had definitely hid their true identities behind masks were Jack Gladney and Babette in *White Noise*. Jack Gladney was a character who feared death but in contrast teaches the brutal Hitler studies at a liberal arts college. While Jack fears death, he taught about the many deaths and horrible murders done by Hitler. Jack uses his studies and as a status as a professor of death as a mask to shed away his fear of death. The mask helps Jack hide his fear of death from his family and friends. With the mask on, it seems like Jack can hide his true fears and be seen as an intelligent professor unafraid of anything and seems to be in control of his life. Along with Jack’s deception, his wife Babette was also hiding behind a mask. In the novel, since the beginning, Babette was a character who had absolute control of her life and a stable life and family. She teaches, tends to children, and help elders and those that need help. It would seem like she had everything in control and was well-liked by all but it was only a fake character Babette made up. Babette had a mask on fooling all those around her believing she was the perfect housewife but in reality in her inner heart, Babette was unrest and fearing death. All those perfect activities and behavior are only being seen by others as Babette had a mask on and acted for others to see.

I made a mask mainly to describe the deceptions that many characters display in many novels and plays. A mask can be used by any for many purposes. It can be put on to help attract and deceit others such as Lily Bart. A mask can be put on to help one escape the painful reality and help one live in a happier view such as Willy Loman. A mask can help hide and face one’s fear and put on a happier perfect face to be seen by others such as Jack Gladney and Babette. A mask can have many purposes and I believe that it while it sometimes help one have a happier life for a while but it’s not a face that should be worn often for it can completely destroy one’s true self.

Word Cited

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